

# The Fire Fighter Gazette

Issue 15

January 1999

## NFPA 1500 Seminar held at the Air Force Academy

The Air Force Academy hosted a NFPA 1500, *Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health*, seminar from 12-14 January. This course was put together by HQ AFCESA, and is designed to assist the DoD Fire Chiefs with the implementation of this important standard. The quotas have been allocated to each of the Major Air Commands.

The first two days of the class covered NFPA 1500, the OSHA Respiratory Protection Program and 2 In/2 Out. The third day they discussed the Air Force

Implementation Guide and reporting procedures (the other services did not need to stay for the third day).

Mr. **Bob Barr**, a consultant with Firescope Inc. provided the instruction for the first two

days. He has over thirty years experience in fire protection, including several years with the NFPA, a stint as a

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**Bob Barr** releases the students during a break.

### Need Directions or Information on an upcoming Seminar?

For the training workshops at the AF Academy we will be meeting in building 2354, Fairchild Hall, Room 3K17 (also known as Lecture Hall L-1) from 0800-1700. Because of the number of people attending, it looks like lodging will likely be off-base. If directions are needed for the Academy, you can contact us at DSN 333-2051, or via the Internet: [piercyer.ce@usafa.af.mil](mailto:piercyer.ce@usafa.af.mil), and we will fax you a map. Visit our web site and print the maps located at:

[www.usafa.af.mil/fire-dept/nfpa](http://www.usafa.af.mil/fire-dept/nfpa)



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## NFPA 1500 ...

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fire marshal, and many years on the line. His only break in the fire service is when he served two years in the Army. **MSgt Mark Captain**, from the fire protection staff at HQ AFCESA, provided the tutelage on the final day of instruction.



If you are attending one of the upcoming seminars: 2-4 Feb, 16-18 Mar, 6-8 Apr, or 11-13 May, please be advised AFCESA is paying for the instructor and materials, but the unit must fund the

individual's travel and per diem. Each individual must also make their own lodging reservations; the AF Academy billeting number is DSN 333-4910 or Comm (719) 333-4910. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to give MSgt Mark Captain a call at DSN 523-6151, or contact him via the Internet at: [captainm@afcesa.af.mil](mailto:captainm@afcesa.af.mil).

If you are assigned overseas, the PACAF class will be held at Hickam AFB HI on 23-25 February and the USAFE class will be at Ramstein AB Germany from 20-22 Apr.



## ARFFWG

### What does ARFFWG stand for?

- ARFFWG is the acronym for the Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting Working Group. It's a non-profit organization that was established in 1990 for the purpose of information

exchange between airport fire fighters, ARFF equipment manufacturers, and others concerning ARFF related issues.

### Who do they answer to?

- The ARFFWG is an independent organization that does not hold allegiance or alliance to any other organization or company, nor any preconceived

ARFF ideology. It is an organization motivated and directed by its membership at large

### How can my department benefit from membership in ARFFWG?

- Receive the largest bimonthly periodical published dealing exclusively with ARFF issues.
- Have free access to several hundred training videos on ARFF related subjects.
- Participate in the world's largest ARFF conference held in the U.S. each year in conjunction with the International Association of Fire Chiefs.
- Have a voice in an organization that is one of the leading shapers and movers of ARFF issues.
- Be put in contact with experts in the field to assist them with special problems, or supply specific information.
- An avenue for interested parties to express their own professional experiences, views and training doctrines in the field of ARFF.



### How do I learn more about the ARFFWG?

- Visit their web site at: <http://www.arffwg.org>

### How does a fire department join the ARFFWG?

- Request an application from the Department of Defense Liaison by writing to Chief Richard Duncan, 6202 Pine Drive, USAF Academy, CO 80840, Internet: [duncanra.ce@usafa.af.mil](mailto:duncanra.ce@usafa.af.mil) or telephone him at DSN 333-2051.

# Priority Placement

*Information provided by Mr. Hugh Pike,  
Fire Protection Staff, HQ AFCESA*

There have been instances recently where departments have been forced to take individuals from the Priority Placement Program (PPP) (Stopper List) to fill vacancies. A number of these individuals were not qualified because they lacked certifications and were not qualified as Airport Fire Fighter. In one instance the Fire Chief fought the issue and the individual was returned to his previous duty location. We fully support the PPP provided the individuals are qualified for the position. However, we are not obligated to accept individuals that are not qualified. In most cases the Civilian Personnel folks look at it as strictly a GS-081 issue--if the individual is a GS-081--they are qualified.

Last week Mr. **Hugh Pike**, Fire Protection Staff, HQ AFCESA, and Mr. **Steve Carter**, Civil Engineer Careers Program, met with senior staffing folks at the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) in an attempt to establish a clearing house to evaluate the qualifications of individuals referred by the PPP, and to only refer those individuals who are in fact qualified. The AFPC staffing folks understood the problem and promised to put out a policy letter to all staffing functions at the base Civilian Personnel Flight and at Civilian Personnel Center at Randolph, making them aware that individuals referred to locations with a flying mission must be an Airfield as well as Structural fire fighter. Hopefully this will solve the problem. If it does not, we will work them on a case by case basis. If someone is referred through the PPP, and you have doubts about their qualifications, give Mr. Pike a call, DSN 523-6214 or e-mail at:

[Hugh.Pike@afcesa.af.mil](mailto:Hugh.Pike@afcesa.af.mil).



## Pay Bill Update

*Information provided by Ms. Diane Disney,  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Civilian Personnel Policy)*

This is an update on the status of firefighter pay reform. The reform legislation was passed with an effective date of 11 Oct 98, and OPM published their implementing interim regulations on 23 Nov 98. The law and regulations significantly alter the way firefighter entitlements are calculated. The change represents approximately a 9% increase for affected employees.

DFAS has indicated that they will not be able to finish programming the payroll changes required by the

legislation until August 1999. So that the DoD firefighter work force can receive the benefits of the new Act at the earliest possible date, a temporary increase in the percentage of Standby Premium Pay will be implemented. Those currently receiving standby premium pay of 25% will receive 34% under this temporary measure. Those receiving 22.5% will increase to 33%; 20% to 33%; and 15% to 27%.

Both DFAS and DASD (CPP) targeted the pay period ending on 16 Jan 99 as the first pay period this temporary increase will be made effective, and it will be retroactive to the pay period beginning 11 Oct 98. Affected employees *should* have seen the increase in their paychecks on 22 Jan 99.

We have been advised by DASD (CPP) that the national unions have been advised of this change. The POC for pay issues at HQ USAF/DPFC is Mr. Phillip Seneschal, DSN 225-7384. Mr. Gordon Canning, HQ USAF/DPFM, can be reached concerning labor relations matters at DSN 225-7425.

## AFCESA Updates

*The following information has been provided by HQ AFCESA/CEXF  
MAJCOM fire protection staffs should contact them for the latest status prior  
to presenting this information to their senior leadership.*

**AFI 32-2001, Fire Protection Program Instruction:** The AFI has been finalized and forwarded to the Air Staff for RE/XP/SG/DP coordination and AF/ILE approval. Significant changes include the levels of authority having jurisdiction, fitness program, ORM plan requirements and NFPA compliance. OPR: Mr. George Hall, DSN 523-6159.

**AFMS 44EF, Fire Department Manpower Standard:** The standard has been revised to include a majority of the MAJCOM proposals. The AFMS has been forwarded to the MAJCOM/CE's and received their coordination. All proposed staffing additives will be addressed during the annual planning programming guide (APPG) re-engineering process. Some of the recommended staffing additives included five personnel for pumpers at outlying structural fire stations to meet the OSHA 2 In /2 Out ruling, an additional person in training based upon department size, placing the assistant chief of operations in the operations calculation. Based upon the initial AF/ILEO, AFCESA, MAJCOM and AFCQMI meeting the week of 26 October, the unofficial date for the fire protection APPG re-engineering will take place in early FY99/2. We are planning to account for the aircraft portion of the BUR in the re-engineering process. Our goal is to publish the revised AFMS in June 99. OPR: MSgt **Mark Captain**, DSN 523-6152.

**Fire Protection Vehicle Allowance Standard 019 Revision:** The fire fighting vehicle allowance standard 019 has been revised to include the new ARFF vehicle sets. The standard provides new criteria for calculating additional (core requirement is two) structural fire fighting vehicle requirements due to fire flows and/or travel time. The new criterion is based upon the fifth largest fire flow requirement;

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## AFCESA Updates....

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vice the largest on an installation. Travel time is based upon the amount of time it takes for the structural fire fighting vehicle to respond from the fire station to the incident. This is the same criteria used by most civilian sectors. We are submitting the revised standard for an early CY99 publication. OPR: Mr. George Hall, DSN 523-6159.

**P-23 Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting Vehicle:** WR-ALC/LE, in conjunction with General Dynamics (GD), will be performing stress testing to validate the cause of hub/axle assembly failures. Once validated, GD will litigate resolution through the original manufacturer. During this period, 60 hub/axle assemblies are being procured to maintain operational status of the fleet OPR: Mr. George Hall, DSN: 523-6159.

**Selective Reenlistment Bonus:** After careful review of the fire protection career field indicators, it was determined that our career field does not currently qualify for SRBs. However, some of the indicators were borderline at the SrA grade, so we will continue to monitor and make recommendations when appropriate. OPR: CMSgt Carl Glover, DSN 523-6112.

**Military Personnel Issues:** We are currently investigating several active duty manpower and personnel issues. Some of the topics under review are CMSgt Prioritization (CLOSED), CMSgt Shortage, SMSgt Shortage, Re-training of MSgt and TSgts, Selective Reenlistment Bonuses, Retention Rates, and Hazardous Duty Incentive Pay. Many of these issues will require specific actions by MAJCOM functional managers and base fire chiefs to resolve. A background paper outlining some possible courses of actions is being developed. Once completed, it will be provided to MAJCOMs and fire protection CMSgts for comment on a plan of action to address the personnel issues. OPR: CMSgt Carl Glover, DSN 523-6112

**MOOTW Manual:** The changes recommended by MAJCOMs on the first draft are now included in the draft manual. We are working with the Air Force Flight Standards Agency on the requirements in the manual and making final format adjustments. We expect to send the final draft out for formal coordination in January 1999. OPR: CMSgt Carl Glover, DSN 523-6112.

**Fire Fighter Certification Course Revisions:** The following certification courses are under revision/development: The four HazMat courses are on their way to ECI and should be available to the field by Mar 99. Telecommunicator (10612) is being finalized and should be available in the summer of 1999. Fire Fighter I/II, (formerly 3E731 and 3E751A, in the future will be course numbers 10021 and 10022). The release date for the Fire Fighter I/II courses is currently unknown. All driver operator courses are being revised to reflect the new NFPA Standard and a Mobile Water Supply Apparatus (Water

Tender) CDC is being developed. The driver operator courses should be released in the fall of 1999. OPR: TSgt Bruce Grabbe, DSN 523-6221.

**Civilian News:** Fire Chiefs need to remind their civilian firefighters to ensure their personnel records include their certification levels. This is critical to ensure they meet the qualification levels for various position vacancies. Please remember that you may only list your "top five" certifications, so make sure the most important ones are listed! OPR: Mr. Hugh Pike, DSN 523-6214.

**Fire Protection TSgt/MSgt Re-training:** As of 30 Nov 98, the current requirements for fire protection re-training are three MSgts and two TSgts. We do not anticipate having to enter Phase III (involuntary) during FY99. OPR: CMSgt Carl Glover, DSN 523-6112.

**Fire Fighter Fitness Program:** A fitness program decision brief was presented and approved by MGen Lupia and MGen Maybre on 13 Oct 98. Phase II of the four step process is now underway and we expect the new DoD Firefighter Fitness Program to be implemented in Aug 99. A fitness equipment questionnaire was sent to each of the MAJCOMs and service components in Nov 98, so we can accurately determine future software and equipment requirements. Test sites will be coordinated with MAJCOMs in the near future. The new program will have a lot of the existing DoD fitness program elements and incorporate the Canadian Forces performance-based test. Additionally, the IAFF/IAFC wellness initiative will serve as the baseline for the wellness component of the program. OPR: CMSgt Jim Podolske, DSN 523-6321.

**CerTest Update:** We are currently finalizing CerTest Version 3.0 and plan to have it released to the field in late Dec 98. CerTest 3.0 is now Y2K compliant and Windows<sup>TM</sup> NT compatible. Other changes include new and revised tests, menu call-out buttons, updated Procedural Guides, improved test editor navigation features and an on-line question challenge form. OPR: CMSgt Jim Podolske, DSN 523-6321.

**Career Field Education Training Plan (CFETP) Update:** The CFETP is currently under revision and should be released to the field in February 1999. OPR: CMSgt Jim Podolske, DSN 523-6321.

**Air Force Electronic CDC Course Testing Initiative:** We are still working with the Extension Course Institute to allow our people to take their CDC course final exams electronically using the CerTest computer-based testing program at an ECI test control facility. We are currently finalizing policy documents, testing software protocols and writing a test control officer procedural guide. Our goal is to make this option available to our customers in Jan 99. Unfortunately, I don't think we

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## More AFCESA Stuff...

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will implement the program in Jan 99 because we still need to satisfy some ECI requirements and then educate the education offices/unit training managers throughout the corporate Air Force. We will keep you posted as this initiative develops. OPR: CMSgt Jim Podolske, DSN 523-6321.

**TO 00-105E-9 Update:** CD-ROM Part I (beginning with Section VIII) distribution in process. There are 915 customers. Distribution will be done in house. The complete CD-ROM is scheduled for distribution in Spring 1999. Retain paper copies until you receive this version. OPR: Mr. Tom Stempowski, DSN 523-6150.

**Fire Department Accreditation:** The DoD Fire and Emergency Services Working Group will conduct a meeting in Dec 98 to develop the program milestones. Information will be provided after the 16/17 Dec 98 meeting. OPR: Mr. George Hall, DSN 523-6159.

**New Commercial 1,500 Gallon ARFF Vehicle Contract Awarded:** The Air Force has awarded it's first commercial ARFF vehicle contract to RJI Corporation, Newark, California. The Air Force will be procuring five C-130 air transportable Jaguars. The trucks will be delivered to ACC. OPR: Mr. Jim Hotell, DSN 523-6460

**GS-081 Revision:** The GS-081 classification guide will under go revision during CY 99. Mr. Kevin King, Chief of Fire Protection, US Marines, will be the OSD functional representative. The Air Force will have an integrated product team (IPT) to be led by Mr. Phil Gibson and Mr. Hugh Pike. We will be soliciting installation fire chiefs to participate in the AF and DOD IPT. OPR: Mr. Gibson DSN 523-6396.

*Editor's Note: As a reminder, the preceding information was provided by HQ AFCESA/CEXF. MAJCOM fire protection staffs should contact them for the latest status prior to presenting this information to their senior leadership.*

## Survey Says ...



Have you completed your survey on the DoD Fire Fighter Certification Program? If not, you may have already missed the suspense. CMSgt Jim Podolske sent an e-mail to each of the Major Air Commands requesting that the survey be completed by every DoD fire department.

The questionnaire was developed for the purpose of surveying each fire department to collect pertinent information regarding the status of the Certification Program. This information will be used to analyze and assess the current implementation status of the certification program in each DoD fire department. The MAJCOMs must forward their consolidated package to HQ AFCESA/CEXF by 5 Feb 99.

## Fire Folks

Congratulations to the following for selection to Chief Master Sergeant:

**George Chambers** - Shaw AFB, SC

**Richard Dienst** - Travis AFB, CA

**Daniel Dodson** - Scott AFB, IL

**Dan Vogel** - McChord AFB, WA

Mr. **David Bouley** moved from the Louis F. Garland Academy to Hurlburt Field Florida. He came to duty around the 12th of September 1998, just in time for Hurricane Georges. *Provided by SSgt Lebeck*

TSgt **Melvin J. Hunt** was selected to MSgt

SSgt **Paul A. Lebeck** was selected to TSgt

The Fire Fighter Gazette is saddened to report the impending retirement of an Air Force Fire Protection icon: CMSgt **Brian "Stoney" Stoneback**. Chief Stoneback's Retirement ceremony will be at Tyndall AFB on 3 May 1999.

Chief **Replogle** of the McChord AFB Fire Department is proud to announce the following winners:

Mr. **Ed Lawson** is the AMC *Civilian Fire Fighter of the Year* and the *Air Force Civil Engineer Manager of the Year*.

CMSgt(s) **Dan Vogel** is the AMC *Military Superintendent of the Year*.

Mr. **Kurt Allen** is the AMC nominee for the *Geico Fire Prevention Award ~ Civilian Category*.

SrA **Bunk** is the AMC *Military Fire Fighter of the Year* and the AMC nominee for the *Geico Fire Prevention Award ~ Military Category*.

MSgt **Ralph Sprout** is the AMC *IMA Enlisted Manager of the Year*.

McChord AFB is AMC's Nominee for the *Outstanding Fire Protection Flight of the Year* (Sanborn Award).

## Final Alarm

Mr. **Oliver (Don) Lewis** lost his battle with cancer at 1900 hours on 26 October 1998. A memorial service was held in his honor at the Kent-Forest Lawn Funeral Home, Panama City, FL on 30 October 1998.

*Provided by Sandy at HQ AFCESA*

CMSgt **Haskel Jenkins** (Retired) passed away after a short illness. He was an active member of the local community and former Fire Chief of Westover AFB. He was laid to rest on 5 Jan 99.

*Provided by MSgt Steven Seward, Shaw AFB*